

REMARKS

The Applicants have filed the present Amendment and Response in reply to the outstanding Official Action of January 24, 2006, and the Applicants believe the Amendment and Response to be fully responsive to the Official Action for the reasons set forth below in greater detail.

At the onset, Applicant would like to note that Claim 40 has been added to the application for examination. No new matter has been added by the aforementioned additional claim. The claim is directed to the fact that the various remote control codes associated with the plurality of operation buttons can be used to control different operations depending on a remote control mode.

§ 102 REJECTION

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stenman et al., United States Patent No. 6,223,029 (hereinafter “Stenman”).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection and traverse with at least the following analysis. Stenman does not teach a storage means for storing the various remote control codes associated with the plurality of operation buttons in a one-to-one relationship.

Stenman teaches that the mobile phone has a set of predetermined control commands. The control command module within the phone generates the variety of predetermined control commands to the peripheral devices. The user enters the control commands through a user interface. The command control module processes the control commands. At best, the reference teaches that a set of predetermined control commands

is stored. However, the reference is not clear that this set of commands is the same or equivalent to the various remote control codes. In fact, reading Stenman suggests otherwise, since the user enters the control commands. Additionally, Applicants note that the reference is not clear as to what the command control module processes, i.e., whether the processing is done on remote control codes.

Moreover, the reference does not teach the claimed one-to-one relationship. In fact, the reference is silent as to the relationship between the operation keys and any of the predefined commands. The reference only states “A user enters control commands through a user interface...In one embodiment, the user interface has associated with it a voice recognition module...Alternatively the user interface may include means for initiating commands through the use of buttons, touch screen, joystick [etc]”. Col. 7, lines 48-65. Therefore, Applicants submit that the reference fails to teach the one-to-one relationship.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the reference does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claims and, therefore, the reference cannot anticipate the claims.

§ 103 REJECTIONS

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being anticipated by Stenman in view of O'Donnell et al., United States Patent No. 5,414,426 (hereafter “O'Donnell”). Additionally, the Examiner rejected Claims 14 and 15 in view of the above three references and in further view of Wall (previously cited). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections and traverse with at least the following analysis.

Firstly, Applicants submit that neither Wall nor O'Donnell cure any of the above-identified deficiencies.

Secondly, O'Donnell does not teach a display means for displaying correspondences between the plurality of operation buttons and the predetermined various controlling operations performed when the plurality of operation buttons are pressed respectively, as recited Claims 2, 6, 10 and 14. O'Donnell appears to teach a standard remote control device. Each button on the remote control is labeled. The label corresponds to the function. This labeling, however, can hardly be considered a "display means". The Examiner points to Figure 2 as illustrating a "display means". Figure 2 does not illustrate the claimed "display means". In contrast, the claimed invention includes a display means for displaying correspondence between the plurality of operation buttons and the predetermined various controlling operations.

In a described embodiment, the specification discloses that the display unit 33 displays the screen as shown in Figure 6. As shown in Figure 6, the display unit 33 displays an image of the operation unit 35 indicating a corresponding controlling operation on each of the plurality of operation buttons. When the mobile telephone 30 is set as a remote controller of target equipment, the correspondence between the plurality of operation buttons of the operation unit 35 and predetermined various controlling operations on the target equipment performed when the corresponding buttons are pressed and displayed on the display unit 33 by the control of the control unit 34. O'Donnell does not teach or suggest any of these features. Furthermore, the labeling in O'Donnell always appears on the remote control device, whereas in the claimed invention the data is displayed only when the corresponding operation button is pressed.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, and 11 are patentably distinct from the cited references; the hypothetically combined references, whether taken alone or in any combination thereof, fail to teach, suggest or render obvious each and every limitation of the claims.

At paragraph 5 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 4, 8, 12, and 13 in view of Stenman and Wall. Additionally, at paragraph 9, the Examiner rejected Claims 18, 21, 25, 28, 31 and 35 as being unpatentable in view of Stenman and Shim, in view of Wall. At paragraph 11, the Examiner also rejected Claim 39 in view of Stenman, Shim and Wall.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections and traverse with at least the following analysis.

Applicants submit that neither Wall nor Shim cure any of the above-identified deficiencies. Secondly, Wall fails to teach a one-to-one relationship as specifically recited. Wall solely teaches downloading codes from a remote location.

Furthermore, Shim fails to teach the claimed one-to-one relationship with respect to the embodiment that the Examiner asserts as reading on the claimed limitations. Shim teaches transmitting a group of control codes stored in memory in response to a user operation. However, multiple data instructions are pre-assigned to selected keys on the keyboard. See Abstract. A depressed key can represent data instructions for at least two instructions. Col. 2:59-63. Applicants note that the reference discloses two cases, one in which the user manipulates keys which supply a single instruction and one in which the user manipulates a key for supplying multiple instructions.

The reference teaches that

When the user manipulates the key for supplying a plurality of data instructions, the remote controller IC 10 executes step S20 after determining that the key input exists in step S10 to buffer one output data instruction corresponding to the key signal received into the buffer within the remote controller IC 10. In step S30, it is determined that the key is one which provides plural data instructions, and in step S40, **the plurality of data instructions are entered into the buffer**. Then, in step S50, the data is produced by the switching of the transistor Q and the light-emitting operation of the light-emitting diode LED.

Col. 3.

Clearly, the reference teaches that multiple instructions are assigned to a single key, as opposed to a one-to-one relationship, as claimed.

The reference does not provide a suggestion to combine embodiments, and, in fact, there would be no reason to make such a combination.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 4, 8, 12, 13, 18, 21, 25, 28, 29, 31 and 35 are patentably distinct from the cited references.

In paragraph 7 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 16, 19, 22, 26, 32, and 36-39 as being unpatentable over Stenman in view of Shim. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejected and traverse the rejection at least based upon the above-identified analysis with respect to Shim.

Further, Applicants submits that none of the cited references teach that the same remote control code can be used to control different operational functions of the target device depending on the mode of operation for the remote as recited in Claim 40. For example, when the user depresses the operation button “1” to transmit the remote control code associated with the operation button “1” to the to the target equipment, channel 1 is

selected on the television. On the other hand, in a different remote control mode, the remote control code associated with the same button “1”, can be used as “1” which is either the hour or minute information of time setting on the target equipment. Accordingly, Applicants submit that new Claim 40 is patentably distinct from the cited references.

With respect to Claim 22, Applicants submit that the reference fails to teach the limitation of “transmission means for transmitting to the target equipment a remote control code associated with one button of the plurality of operation buttons when the one button is pressed and when the mobile telephone is set in a first remote control mode, transmitting to the target equipment the first group of remote control codes in response to a user operation when the mobile telephone is set in a second remote control mode, and transmitting to the target equipment the second group of remote control codes formed by a remote control code associated with an operation button pressed by a user in advance and the part of remote control codes in response to a user operation when the mobile telephone is set in third remote control mode” (Claim 29 the limitation of a step of transmitting to the target equipment the group of remote control codes formed by the part of remote control codes stored in the storage means and a remote control code associated with an operation button pressed by a user in advance to perform the predetermined controlling operation on the target equipment in response to a user operation); (Claim 32, transmitting to the target equipment the first group of remote control codes in response to a user operation when the mobile telephone is set in a second remote control mode; and transmitting to the target equipment the second group of remote control codes formed by a remote control code associated with an operation button pressed by a user in advance

and the part of remote control codes in response to a user operation when the mobile telephone is set in a third remote control mode); (Claim 37, a step of transmitting to the target equipment the group of remote control codes formed by the part of remote control codes stored in the storage means and remote control code associated with an operation button pressed by a user in advance to perform the predetermined controlling operation on the target equipment in response to a user operation); (Claim 38, transmitting to the target equipment the first group of remote control codes in response to a user operation when the mobile telephone is set in a second remote control mode; and transmitting to the target equipment the second group of remote control codes formed by a remote control code associated with an operation button pressed by a user in advance and the part of remote control codes in response to a user operation when the mobile telephone is set in a third remote control mode.).

These claims are directed to the second embodiment of the invention, a remote control with three modes of transmission. In the second transmission mode, a batch code transmission unit 1100 is used for continuously transmitting a group of codes each having a meaning. The transmission code groups 1110, 1120 are formed by a plurality of remote control codes and a code group header. A predetermined controlling operation can be performed on target equipment by continuously transmitting the remote control codes forming the transmission code group. In the third transmission method a coupling code unit 1300 is used to transmit in one operation the codes.

Applicants submit that Shim does not teach these three modes of transmission. The two modes described in Shim are not the same as the second or third mode of the claimed invention.

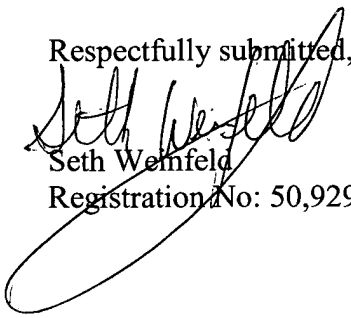
Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 16, 19, 22, 26, 29, 32, 36 37 and 38 are patentably distinct from the cited references.

In paragraph 10 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 20, 23, 24, 27, 30, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stenman, Shim and August (previously cited). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection; August does not cure any of the above-identified deficiencies.

For all the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1, 5, and 9 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw rejections of Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-39 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In conclusion, the Applicants believe that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance and henceforth respectfully solicit the Examiner to allow the application. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite the allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned, Applicants' attorney, at the following telephone number: (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,


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